

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
PM-03 SP-02 L-01 USIA-01 /035 W
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P R 231650Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7039
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
CINC EUR VAHINGEN PRIORITY
JCS WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 05406

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, GW, BE, US
SUBJECT: SHAPE-EUCOM COLLOCATION

REFS: A) BONN 4883 DTG 171304Z MAR 78
B) BRUSSELS 1137 DTG 191812Z JAN 78 (NOTAL)
C) BONN 21141 DTG 221141Z DEC 77 (NOTAL)
D) STATE 294987 DTG 100115Z DEC 77 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: ON MARCH 22, THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT
FORMALLY AGREED TO SHAPE/EUCOM WARTIME COLLOCATION. THE
FRG PLANS TO NOTIFY THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG AUTHORITIES
OF THE COLLOCATION PLAN, BUT HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHEN
TO DO SO. THE EMBASSY REQUESTS WASHINGTON GUIDANCE
ON (A) WHAT, IF ANY, SUGGESTIONS WE SHOULD MAKE TO THE
GERMAN GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE TIMING AND OTHER DETAILS
OF ITS PROPOSED NOTIFICATION OF THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG
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AUTHORITIES; AND (B) WHAT PRESS LINE THE EMBASSY SHOULD
USE, ON AN IF-ASKED BASIS, IN THE EVENT OF A LEAK. END
SUMMARY.

1. ON MARCH 22, THE FOREIGN OFFICE (MR. HANS VON PLOETZ
OF NATO AFFAIRS) OFFICIALLY INFORMED US THAT THE GERMAN
GOVERNMENT AGREED TO THE U.S. PROPOSAL FOR SHAPE/EUCOM

WARTIME COLLOCATION. WE UNDERSTAND THAT, AS EXPECTED, THE FEDERAL CHANCELLERY'S ANSWER TO GENSCHER'S LETTER (SEE REF A) DID NOT CHALLENGE THE SUBSTANCE OF GENSCHER'S DECISION IN FAVOR OF THE COLLOCATION PROPOSAL.

2. VON PLOETZ SAID THAT OF COURSE FRG "AGREEMENT" TO THE COLLOCATION PROPOSAL WAS IN A LINGUISTIC RATHER THAN A LEGAL SENSE. HE SAID FRG AGREEMENT SIMPLY MEANT THAT THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAD NO OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED WARTIME COLLOCATION.

3. VON PLOETZ SAID THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT WOULD NOTIFY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LAND OF BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG OF THE COLLOCATION PLAN AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME. HE SAID THE FRG HAD NOT YET DECIDED ON THE TIMING OR THE LEVEL OF THE NOTIFICATION OR ON WHICH FEDERAL AGENCY WOULD NOTIFY WHICH ELEMENT OF THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG GOVERNMENT. HE ADDED THAT FOREIGN OFFICE AND DEFENSE MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE DISCUSSING THESE QUESTIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON WHAT, IF ANY, SUGGESTIONS WE SHOULD MAKE TO THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE TIMING AND OTHER DETAILS OF ITS PROPOSED NOTIFICATION OF THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG AUTHORITIES.
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(B) WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON WHAT PRESS LINE THE EMBASSY SHOULD USE, ON AN IF-ASKED BASIS, IN THE EVENT OF A LEAK REGARDING THE COLLOCATION PLAN.

5. AS FOR POINT B, ABOVE, IT WOULD OF COURSE BE VERY DIFFICULT TO MAKE ANY SUBSTANTIVE PUBLIC COMMENT IN VIEW OF THE BELGIAN POSITION DESCRIBED IN PARA 6 OF REF B. FURTHERMORE, THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAS TOLD US THAT WE SHOULD NOT MAKE PUBLIC ITS AGREEMENT TO THE COLLOCATION UNTIL IT GIVES US EXPLICIT PERMISSION TO DO SO. IT INDICATED THAT THIS PERMISSION WOULD BE GRANTED AT SOME POINT AFTER IT HAD INFORMED THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG AUTHORITIES OF THE COLLOCATION PLAN. (THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS AGREED THAT THE FRG WILL NOT MAKE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE COLLOCATION WITHOUT FIRST SEEKING OUR CONCURRENCE.)

6. WE WOULD THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT, FOR THE TIME BEING, WE REACT TO ANY QUESTIONS WITH A SIMPLE "NO COMMENT." THE CHANCES OF A LEAK IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE MAY NOT BE THAT GREAT IN ANY CASE.

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USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 05406

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7. WE WOULD CAUTION, HOWEVER, THAT AFTER THE COLLOCATION PLAN IS KNOWN TO POLITICAL CIRCLES IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG, THE POSSIBILITY OF A LEAK IS LIKELY TO INCREASE, PARTICULARLY SINCE THERE MAY BE CONCERNS OVER POSSIBLE JOB LOSS IN THE STUTTGART AREA. LOCAL POLITICIANS AND LABOR LEADERS MAY IMMEDIATELY ASSUME THAT EUCOM WILL EVENTUALLY PULL OUT OF STUTTGART IN TOTO. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, GERMAN LOCAL NATIONAL EMPLOYEES OF US FORCES ARE ALREADY NERVOUS OVER A DECEMBER, 1977 GAO REPORT WHICH THEY INTERPRETED AS SUGGESTING THAT MANY LOCAL NATIONAL POSITIONS MIGHT BE TAKEN OVER BY AMERICANS.

8. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, IT WOULD BE USEFUL, FROM A PURELY PUBLIC RELATIONS POINT OF VIEW HERE IN GERMANY, IF CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE COULD BE APPROVED WHICH WOULD (A) CONFIRM, IN GENERAL TERMS, THAT SHAPE/EUCOM WARTIME
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COLLOCATION IS BEING CONSIDERED; (B) STATE THE RATIONALE FOR THE COLLOCATION (THE SECOND SENTENCE OF THE PRESS STATEMENT IN REF D, AS AMENDED BY REF C; (C) STATE THAT NO COMBAT TROOPS WOULD BE RE-LOCATED AND THAT THE WARTIME COLLOCATION WOULD BE ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH THE AGREED NATO STRATEGY OF FORWARD DEFENSE (PENULTIMATE SENTENCE OF THE STATEMENT IN REF D); AND (D) CONTAIN A STATEMENT DESIGNED TO ALLAY GERMAN FEARS OVER POSSIBLE JOB LOSS IN THE STUTTGART AREA.

9. HOWEVER, WE REALIZE THAT THE ABOVE PRESS LINE MAY NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE BELGIANS AND THAT GOING INTO SUCH DETAIL MIGHT BE UNHELPFUL, IN A BELGIAN CONTEXT, EVEN IF THERE IS A LEAK. IT IS OF COURSE ESSENTIAL THAT NOTHING BE SAID OR DONE WHICH COULD REDUCE THE CHANCES OF ULTIMATE BELGIAN AGREEMENT TO THE COLLOCATION PLAN.

10. WE SIMPLY WISH TO POINT OUT THAT THE TIME MAY COME, AND PERHAPS SOON, WHEN WE SHALL BE UNDER PRESSURE TO SAY MORE THAN "NO COMMENT." WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY BRUSSELS' VIEWS AND WASHINGTON GUIDANCE.
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